

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/803,029

Examiner

Sanh D Phu

Applicant(s)

KAARIO, JUHA

Art Unit

2682

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 5/24/2004.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-31.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 3/12/2001 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
 6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 5. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 2. <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 6. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date <u>g</u> . |
| 3. <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____ | 7. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Amendment/Comment |
| 4. <input type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material | 8. <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance |
| | 9. <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____. |

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DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to the amendment filed on 5/24/2004.

Examiner's Amendment

2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with Mr. Hung Bui on 06/16/2004.

The application has been amended as follows.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 1 has been amended as follows.

(Currently Amended): an article of functional clothing comprising:

a garment;

electrically conductive fibers integrated at a predetermined location on the garment in a predetermined pattern to form an induction loop; and

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C1 an activator unit arranged at a predetermined location on the induction loop to close and thus activate the induction loop by connecting opposite ends of the induction loop, and to provide an interface to at least one portable electronic device.

Claim 13 has been amended as follows.

(Currently Amended): a process of fabricating smart clothing, comprising:

C2 integrating electrically conductive fibers into a garment in a predetermined pattern to form an induction loop;

forming an activator unit at a predetermined location on the induction loop; and

activating the induction loop, via the activator unit, by establishing connection between opposite ends of the induction loop, and providing an interface to at least one portable electronic device.

Claim 23 has been amended as follows.

C3 (Currently Amended): an article of functional clothing comprising:

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a garment having a conductive fiber integrated therein for forming an induction loop; and

C3

an activator unit arranged to close the induction loop establishing electrical conduction between opposite ends of the induction loop, and to serve as an interface between the garment and at least one portable electronic device.

Claim 27 has been amended as follows.

(Currently Amended): an apparatus, comprising:

An inductive coil for inductively coupling a hearing device to a garment

C4

having conductive fibers integrated therein for forming an induction loop;

A speaker for conveying a message from at least one portable electronic device to a user of the hearing device; and

An activator unit for activating the induction loop by establishing a connection between opposite ends of the induction loop, and for establishing a connection between the at least one portable electronic device and the induction loop.

Reason for Allowance

3. Claims 1-31 are allowed.

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4. As per independent claim 1, none of the prior art of record teaches or suggests an article of functional clothing comprising:

a garment;

electrically conductive fibers integrated at a predetermined location on the garment in a predetermined pattern to form an induction loop; and

an activator unit arranged at a predetermined location on the induction loop to close and thus activate the induction loop by connecting opposite ends of the induction loop, and to provide an interface to at least one portable electronic device.

As per independent claim 13, none of the prior art of record teaches or suggests a process of fabricating smart clothing, comprising:

integrating electrically conductive fibers into a garment in a predetermined pattern to form an induction loop;

forming an activator unit at a predetermined location on the induction loop; and

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activating the induction loop, via the activator unit, by establishing connection between opposite ends of the induction loop, and providing an interface to at least one portable electronic device.

As per independent claim 23, none of the prior art of record teaches or suggests an article of functional clothing comprising:

a garment having a conductive fiber integrated therein for forming an induction loop; and

an activator unit arranged to close the induction loop establishing electrical conduction between opposite ends of the induction loop, and to serve as an interface between the garment and at least one portable electronic device.

As per independent claim 27, none of the prior art of record teaches or suggests an apparatus, comprising:

An inductive coil for inductively coupling a hearing device to a garment having conductive fibers integrated therein for forming an induction loop;

A speaker for conveying a message from at least one portable electronic device to a user of the hearing device; and

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An activator unit for activating the induction loop by establishing a connection between opposite ends of the induction loop, and for establishing a connection between the at least one portable electronic device and the induction loop.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sanh D Phu whose telephone number is (703) 305-8635. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:00-16:30.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

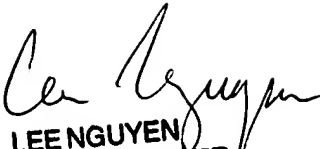
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LEE NGUYEN
PRIMARY EXAMINER

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